June is widely celebrated as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, more commonly referred to as simply "Pride Month." The month-long celebration highlights the societal contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community and honors the 1969 uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, NY.

On June 28, 1969, plainclothes police officers raided the Stonewall Inn, one of the most popular LGBTQIA+ bars in the city. As the raid continued, bar patrons were mistreated and abused, resulting in protests that went on to last for six days and became known as the Christopher Street Uprisings.

The first Pride march took place one year after the uprising, on June 28, 1970, and was the culmination of a Gay Pride Week in New York City. It served to commemorate the uprising and protest against centuries of abuse. There were an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 marchers in attendance.

Initially celebrated across the U.S. on the last Sunday in June as "Gay Pride Day," the celebration expanded far beyond a single day and is now a worldwide phenomenon.

**MARSHA P. JOHNSON AND SYLVIA RIVERA**

Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992) and Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002) are probably two of the most well known icons and activists of the LGBTQIA+ Rights Movement. Johnson and Rivera were best friends, self-proclaimed drag performers, and pillars of the LGBTQIA+ community in Greenwich Village in New York City during the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s.

Johnson and Rivera are best known for their involvement in the Stonewall and Christopher Street Uprisings, as well as the Christopher Street Liberation Day March, which took place the following year. Johnson and Rivera were active members of the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance, consistently fought for the inclusion of transgender and non-binary people of color within the gay community, and together founded STAR, an activist organization that offered housing and support for transgender youth.

For more on the Heritage Calendar Collaboration with the Office for Edi and University Staff Advisory Council, visit:

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